

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 665

By Pleasant

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the administration, faculty and student body of Arlington High School and the Shelby County School System on the dedication of their new building.

WHEREAS, over the years the local schools of this State have meant a great deal to their respective communities; in earlier periods of our history, schools were often established through the efforts and resources of the local citizenry or by churches; and

WHEREAS, in December of 1881, the Memphis Conference of the Methodist Church initiated plans to locate a high school in Arlington (formerly called Haysville and later known as Withe Depot or Wythe Station), as it served as the primary shipping point from the Memphis and Ohio Railroad to the prosperous Fayette County community of Hickory Wythe; the Memphis District High School, as it was designated, had its first session in January 1884; and

WHEREAS, the school building was a brick two-story edifice erected on two land parcels purchased from Joe L. Cody and Eliza C. Karr on a hill overlooking Chester Street; by the beginning of its second session in 1885, the school had an enrollment of 100 students paying a subscription fee of \$4.00 per pupil, per month; and

WHEREAS, the Memphis Conference appointed Reverend M.F. Leake as the first principal, followed by Professor W.B. Winston, Professor Loggins and then by the Reverend Leake's second appointment; some of the early teachers were Etta McDowell, May Farrow, Effie Christian, Belle Grandberry, Nannie Boyd, Ella Roberts, Jennie Tanner and Light Moore; and

WHEREAS, in 1885, the public school system of Shelby County took over the Memphis District High School and operated it until 1911 when the original school building was torn down and a new building was erected on the same site in 1912; Mrs. Mabel Williams Hughes was

Shelby County School Superintendent at the time and the building commissioners were J.M. Ward, W.L. Terry and John Cunningham; and

WHEREAS, during and after Reconstruction until the late 1960s, African American students were educated in a separate system; Arlington Airline Elementary School on Airline Road at one time also educated African American high school students. That school was closed on May 29, 1969, and the building is now a part of Wright Medical Complex; and

WHEREAS, the 1912 Arlington High School building, which in 1930 had become a school for grades 1-8, was demolished in 1975 as a new elementary school had been constructed in 1973-74 at 11825 Douglass Street; during this period, high school students for the Arlington area attended Bolton High School or other public high schools; and

WHEREAS, in August 2004, Phase I of a new Arlington High School was opened with approximately 385 students; as the next three years unfold, a grade level per year will be added until a 9-12 grade structure is in place; and

WHEREAS, the completed building will have capacity for 2000 students with over 100 teaching stations, including 72 classrooms, three computer labs, seven science labs, a physical education gymnasium, specialized career/technical spaces, and fine arts spaces for choral music, instrumental music, drama and TV production. The new school will be the largest high school in the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, eleven classrooms have been set aside for students with special needs; a school-wide computer data network will be provided, and athletic facilities will include a lighted football stadium with an eight-lane track, lighted baseball, softball and soccer fields, and a varsity gymnasium; the library, auditorium and administrative offices will be located in the center of the building for easy access by students and parents; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly wish to seize this opportunity to specially recognize all those involved in the opening of the new Arlington High School at 5475 Airline Road; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we extend our heartiest congratulations to the members of the Shelby

County Board of Education, the Superintendent of Shelby County Schools, the administration, faculty, students and their parents, and the citizens of Arlington on the occasion of the dedication of their new state-of-the art high school housed in a building of more than 320,000 square feet on a lovely 69-acre campus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our confidence that the new Arlington High School will serve the educational expectations of its students and their parents for years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.